

Conclusions

The percentage of young people between the ages of 13-15 years old who currently use any tobacco product is high (19.6%), with 17.5% currently use other tobacco products and 4.1% currently smoking cigarettes with the onset of cigarette smoking being as young as age 10, with some even as young as age 7. One other salient feature that emerged from this survey is the high use of other tobacco products among youth. The percentage of students who ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs, is 13.8%.

ETS is very high, over half of current smokers students and about one third of never smokers students expose to smoke in their homes from their parents or brothers or relatives. About 3 in 4 current smokers students are around others who smoke in places outside their homes. 88.7% of never smokers students and 68.1% of current smokers think smoking should be banned from public places and nearly the same percentage (77.9% of never smokers and 63.6% of current smokers students) think smoke from others is harmful to them.

The time is ripe for appropriate legislature to be introduced to create a tobacco-free environment in which children would be able to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. These positive aspects revealed from the survey attract our attention to work on increasing the students' awareness and offer them help to live their lives safely.

Cigarettes in Egypt are widely available and accessible. Almost half of the youth smokers can buy their cigarettes in the stores and half of them bought their cigarettes without any prohibition of sale.

More than six in ten currently smokers want to stop smoking. They tried unsuccessfully to stop over the past year. They however, still believe quitting is within their control saying they will be able to stop whenever they want to.

They tend to underestimate the addictiveness of nicotine and the difficulties associated with quitting believing it is easier for young people to quit than adults.

There is lack of access to smoking cessation programmers among those who are already smoking

The majority of young people (about three fourths, either currently smokers or never smokers) saw advertisement for cigarettes on billboards, in newspapers and magazines and brand names at sport event or on television.

Youth are made to believe that smoking is “cool”, Fun, glamorous, modern and western and watching their role models smoke further encourage's them to smoke too.

Some even had an object with a cigarettes brand logo on it, about one forth of young people either never smokers or currently smokers. About two thirds of currently smokers students were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company in different occasions. The influence of advertising by the tobacco industry is pronounced and until legislation provides support for total ban on advertisement, children and adolescents will continue to be influenced by these pro-smoking messages in the media.

Less than half of the students were taught in class during the past year about the dangers of smoking, the reasons why people their age smoke and the effects of tobacco.